



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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April 6, 2004

### **SALINA, KANSAS, WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO HEALTH CARE FRAUD**

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Alice Louise Shakespear**, 32, Salina, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on April 5, 2004, before Chief U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum to one count of health care fraud.

Melgren said that Shakespear admitted at her plea that on June 11, 2001, she divorced her husband who was an active member of the United States Army and was no longer eligible to receive health care benefits from the TRICARE program, a federal health care benefits program that provides health care insurance benefits to members of the United States Armed Services and their eligible dependants. Shakespear further admitted that on November 26, 2002, she submitted a military identification card which she knew falsely identified her as the spouse of a member of the U.S. Army and submitted a TRICARE insurance card which she knew falsely identified her as an active duty family member to a health care provider to obtain health insurance benefits to which she was not entitled. Shakespear admitted that based on this false information, she received gastric by-pass surgery and TRICARE paid over \$10,000 in medical insurance benefits for her surgery.

Shakespear faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for June 28, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Marietta Parker in this prosecution.